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HR 370, HCR 288
REQUESTING A BAN ON THE SALE OF
ALL NON-PRECIOUS STONY CORALS IN HAWAII

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - April 14, 1988

By
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This resolution requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) adopt rules to ban the sale of all non-precious stony corals of the Funjiidae or Pocilloporidae families in Hawaii.

Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Particularly helpful are the economic figures provided by the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the estimated annual sales of stony corals and their survey of nonprecious coral businesses that indicated that the prohibition of sale of nonprecious corals would have little or no effect on their business. In our previous testimony on a related bill (HB 2067), we had urged that such information be compiled, and we certainly commend DLNR for their efforts

We would like to offer two suggestions: 1) that some indication be provided as to what volume or quantity and type of stony coral is represented by the \$433,000; and 2) that DLNR establish a monitoring or evaluation procedure so that the effectiveness of the ban can be assessed.

We have heard that estimates made by baggage inspectors at the Kahului Airport on Maui suggest that some 65 percent of the Mainland-bound passengers are carrying freshly dead coral. If this is the case, it would appear that an education program should be directed towards tourists pointing out the importance of protecting coral resources.